

Protecting Working Conditions: Prep Periods and Hybrid Teaching



Shane Stagg
District & TBU President

The return to a new school year has been met with a mix of cautious optimism and apprehension in what continues to be challenging circumstances. While there is continued cooperation between the DDSB and District 13 OSSTF, the quadmester schedule brought on by students taking 2 courses at a time with lengthy 150-minute periods is not ideal.

Prep Periods

For both contractual and practical reasons, the daily schedule in high school is well suited to four classes a day. This supports 75-minute periods of instruction for students in each class and provides timetabled preparation (prep) time for teachers as directed by the collective agreement.

Prep time is an important period during the day for

teachers to design lessons, plan assessment, gather resources, contact guardians, and very importantly, collaborate with colleagues. Similar to when a contractor is hired for a project in a home where it is understood that there is work to be done with planning and gathering materials that take place in the background, there is work related to teaching beyond what is seen in the classroom. Without daily prep time, the workload of teachers becomes unmanageable and the lack of support through collaboration with colleagues leads to isolation and stress with newer teachers being particularly vulnerable.

In areas of the province where the daily schedule is such that there is no daily prep period, teachers are reporting that it is unsustainable. Teaching 4/4 (four out of four) was a required condition for a period of time in the late 90s under the Harris government and it became apparent that it is not a reasonable model for teaching and learning.

Last spring during a meeting of District Council which includes representatives from all

schools, a discussion was had about possible timetables for the upcoming year. It became clear that any model that could be supported by members would need to include protection of a daily prep period. With partnership between the DDSB and District 13, a model for timetabling was crafted that preserves a daily prep period for teachers. It's challenging to schedule and the end result is less than ideal

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but the preservation of prep time each day remains of paramount interest.

We are looking forward to the risk of COVID transmission falling to a level where we can return to a four-period day and a regular four-period schedule. In the meantime, every effort is being made to align working conditions with what has been agreed to over many years in the collective agreement.

Hybrid Teaching

Hybrid teaching-which requires teachers to supervise and deliver instruction to students both face-to-face and online at the same time-has proven to also be a tremendous challenge in much of the province. There are articles appearing in the media that describe this concern.

Since last year, in the Durham public board, a virtual school has been established which has students in both face-to-face and online environments supported by teachers that are dedicated to each mode of instruction. The results have been a success and demonstrate the commitment of members to providing supportive learning conditions for students. A face-to-face learning experience remains the best for most students but given the current circumstances, it speaks volumes for public education to be able to provide high quality options for families.

Last year, despite the online school being in place, there were a number of classes following a hybrid teaching model. Although it was a small number of affected classes, it

became the single largest reason for contact between the Union and its members who described it as being untenable. District 13 filed a grievance, which is a legal mechanism for addressing contractual issues, with the points that hybrid teaching created unmanageable workload conditions for teachers and interfered with the ability to adequately supervise both online and in-class students at the same time. The matter was resolved with a re-examination of the hybrid model by the DDSB which led to the elimination of the hybrid model for all classes. As a result, this year, all families had the option to select their preferred choice between online or face-to-face and all schools, including the virtual school, were staffed with the appropriate number of teachers according to student enrolment.

Welcome Garrett Metcalfe to the District Office



We are excited to announce that Garrett has arrived and begun to work in our District Office. He was appointed to the vacant District Representative seconded position by the District Executive and joined us in the office starting October 12th. The District is committed to providing service to our members with a focus on anti-oppression and inclusion and Garrett brings a tremendous amount of social justice knowledge and experience that make him an ideal addition to the office team. He has had extensive involvement within our union at the school, District and Provincial levels. He has been a teacher in District 13 for over 20 years with his most recent position being at DASS. Welcome Garrett!

Brought to You By Unions—Reclaiming Union Roots



Garrett Metcalfe
District Representative

Every Labour Day, we see all of the memes on social media recognizing the history of the labour movement here in Canada. You know the ones: “The 40 Hour Work Week, Paid Holidays, Maternity Leave, Benefits, Pensions...Brought To You By Unions.” We celebrate and recognize these major contributions of collective, organized activism. We understand that this grassroots activism was born out of necessity and rooted out of opposition to social class oppression.

At the heart of all union work has been a collective fight to remedy the social and economic imbalances of power. It recognized that power systems existed to maintain status quo and ensured that those holding power and wealth will always continue to do so. It recognized working class exploitation and marginalization. The union movement disrupted this power imbalance and fought hard to

gain working class access to fair pay and livable working conditions. A fight that continues to this day.

Over the years, union work has extended to recognizing other areas of marginalization including civil and women’s rights for those seeking equitable outcomes and access in employment. As a Queer person, I remember how grateful I was for the work of unions as they stepped up to support the LGB community during the 90’s. The CAW funded the legal battle right here in Durham in support of a young gay male to attend Prom with his partner, and our District was a leader in the creation of GSA’s throughout our board. This is the work of unions!

More recently however, I have been disappointed in the labour movement when it comes to social justice activism. I recognize that many unions have been struggling to hold on to their collective power as governments are intentionally and strategically attempting to union-bust and dismantle. In part, this may explain a lot of the silence from unions around social activism over the past few years. However, I would argue there is another reason for this silence.

The past few years has seen a marked shift in social justice work that has only been compounded by COVID. The conversations are becoming increasingly more complicated and emotional, and are challenging the very structures and institutions in our society including our unions. Conversations of systemic and institutional colonialism and white supremacy are not easy. In fact, for some, the fear in having these conversations can lead to paralysis. We recognize there is a problem, we want to do the right thing, but our fears often lead to inaction.

District 13 is here for you! We recognize that the work is long overdue, timely, and must happen to support all of our members. We are working very hard to dismantle colonial systems of oppression within our union with a goal to support everyone in doing this work. My basic social justice philosophy is that when we know better, we do better. District 13 invites all of our members to join us in a collective of learning and action as we continue our anti-oppression journey together. See our first steps towards this on the next page.

Someday soon we will see the new Labour Day memes: “A Safe, Inclusive Space for All – Brought to You By Unions!”

Rights/Equity Seeking Advisory Committees:

A Call to Participate and Engage



Garrett Metcalfe
District Representative

District 13 is committed to acknowledging the historic and contemporary systems of oppression and its impact on our members within the larger education system, our school board and in our own federation. We recognize the systemic and social barriers that can exist for many of our members to access and participate in our organization at all levels of leadership. District 13 is committed to providing space and voice for everyone in our union.

A District Representative has been specifically tasked with focusing on the work of decolonization, anti-oppression and social justice. We are working towards the creation of an Anti-Oppression/Social Justice Lead position on Executive and our Human Rights Committee is beginning the steps of reprioritizing their focus and work. Before we move too

quickly with these new initiatives, we are seeking the further input of rights and equity seeking members to help direct this important work.

Your federation is inviting all rights and equity seeking members to come together in collective to create committees with a goal to provide space and voice in your union. The purpose and details of your collectives are completely yours to create. We will provide space, resources and flexibility to meet based upon the needs of your group. The details and/or purpose of your advisory committee may include;

*Meeting two or three times a year or as often as you would like

*Meeting as a social group to support each other

*Making recommendations and requests to Executive acting in ally capacity

*Acting as an advisory group to Executive

*Creating programming and professional development for members

*Providing training and leadership opportunities for your group in federation

Please consider starting or joining a group by contacting Garrett Metcalfe (by email garrett.metcalfe@d13.osstf.ca) or call the District Office at 905 668 7100.

Your Voice
Your Space
Your Federation

November 12, 2021 Joint OSSTF/DDSB PD Day

This year's joint OSSTF/DDSB Professional Development day will take place on November 12th, 2021. The theme for this year is Recovery, Resilience and Revitalization. Sessions will focus on supporting a culture of wellness and enhancing professional practices for the classroom.

This day is designed around members providing PD for members and this year saw 77 proposals submitted for consideration. The D13 PD Committee would like to thank members who submitted a proposal as the joint PD day would not be possible without these efforts.

Members are reminded that registration for the PD day started on myPD on October 25th and closes on November 8, 2021.

Social Media Etiquette: or How to Speak Out for What You Believe in Without Losing Your Job (Version 2.0)



Nicole Bléau

District Representative

I submitted a version of this article for INPRINT 13 back in 2018 when Doug Ford had been in power for about 6 months and Ontarians were really feeling the impact of his leadership. Members were heading to social media with their concerns, armed with righteous anger at what they were seeing. Now, deep into the pandemic and with the impact of his government's policies on COVID and education, teachers and education workers are hitting social media hard. And we are seeing an increase in the concerns raised by the Board about some of our members' posts. So how should our members stand up and ferociously support the things they believe in and denounce the things they don't without putting their jobs on the line? As a citizen, you have a right to your opinion and to express it publicly. But as an education worker and most especially a teacher, it is important to be mindful of a few elements associated with those rights.

There are two primary areas of concern when expressing your views publicly: Labour Relations law (applicable to all workers) and the College of Teachers (specific to teachers).

Labour Relations Law

It is a longstanding labour relations precedent that badmouthing your employer publicly can be grounds for dismissal. Back in the day, the options for publicly sharing anything were limited. You could take out an ad in the newspaper or shout from a busy street corner, I suppose. But now, with social media ever present, the opportunity, the temptation and the risk of publicly shaming your employer are that much greater. And as you know, nothing ever really dies on the internet so the proof of your deed will live on forever. It is possible that the DDSB, the Ministry of Education and the government as a whole could be all construed as your employer. Your employer serves the will of the government so insulting the government over a policy that the Board has implemented could be interpreted as also insulting your employer. And a disrespectful tweet or defamatory post about your employer could get you in trouble. For example, a post

from you that says that you disagree with the Ford government's plans regarding the return to in-person school and think it is wrongheaded is different than sharing a photo of your classroom and discussing how shameful you think it is. You are entitled to disagree with your employer. But insulting them, shaming them or embarrassing them in public is dangerous.

College of Teachers

The College of Teachers expects teachers to behave in a respectful and appropriate manner at all times and that includes on social media. They have the ability to rescind your right to teach in this province if they feel that you are not living up to that standard. There is no distinction in the eyes of the College or the law between our professional lives and our private lives: we are considered teachers 24/7 and our conduct must always reflect that. Privacy settings are not enough to shelter you from blowback. If you are considering posting something online that you would be embarrassed for students, their parents or your principal to see, **DON'T DO IT!** Keep in mind that it's often about **HOW** you post. Using the example from earlier, a post from you that says that you

Social Media Etiquette: or How to Speak Out for What You Believe in Without Losing Your Job (Version 2.0) (cont'd)

disagree with the Ford government's plans regarding the return to in-person school and think it is wrongheaded is different than a statement calling Doug Ford nasty names for the decisions he has made. Always remember that you cannot teach in Ontario without a Certificate of Qualification. As

well, any member of the public is free to make a complaint to the College about you, from an angry ex to a neighbour to a parent of one of your students. Also remember that in class, you should stick to the curriculum. Your opinions on most things should not enter into discussions with students.

In these difficult political times, it is important to speak out on social justice issues. It is just important to do so in a way that does not put your career in jeopardy nor tarnish the good standing of teachers in this province. It is important to remember that your language must always reflect the dignity of the profession.

LifeWorks (Formerly Posaction)

LifeWorks (formerly Posaction) counselling service is available through our OTIP LTD contract for Permanent Teachers. On an annual (calendar year) basis, you can access up to 12 hours of free face-to-face psychosocial counselling for you and/or your immediate family members. LifeWorks can assist you with work-related, family, personal or dependency problems. At this time, sessions are also available via distance options. As well, there are other web-based services available.

LifeWorks is mentioned on the District 13 website and in each newsletter.

To access LifeWorks, download the app or visit otiptl.lifeworks.com.

Log in with the username and password below:

Login: Lifeworks1

Password: @OTIPTL123



Roundabouts don't have to be scary

Provided by OTIP

October usually brings images of ghosts, goblins, skeletons and other classic "spooky season" frights. If driving through a roundabout is on your list of "spooky" things, read on.

While roundabouts have become increasingly popular in Canada over the years, they still make up only a small fraction of the country's intersections and continue to leave many Canadian drivers apprehensive. But navigating a roundabout doesn't have to be scary!

Learn more at <https://www.otipinsurance.com/article125>.



Health & Safety COVID Update



Richard McCormack
District Representative

Another school year is upon us and unfortunately it involves another school year under COVID-19 protocols. OSSTF remains committed to protecting members from the threats to Health and Safety represented by COVID-19.

Last year saw OSSTF Provincial retain the service of science experts in the fields of epidemiology and ventilation. It also held weekly briefings with the experts to review the prevalence and community transmission of COVID, so as to share this risk assessment with local OSSTF leaders. Local leaders used the risk assessment to determine what further Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures should be in place within their district. When local leaders saw an increasing level of risk from community transmission, they responded by advocating for more IPAC measures within their local public health units. Last school year, District 13 sent four letters to Dr. Robert Kyle, Medical Officer of Health for the Regional Municipality of

Durham. As the prevalence of variants of concern continues to manifest within communities, these measures will remain in place during this school year.

OSSTF has had experts in ventilation share their knowledge with local leaders throughout the year. In August, District 13 representatives attended a ventilation workshop hosted by Jeffrey Siegel from the University of Toronto – Civil & Mineral Engineering. In October, local health and safety representatives will attend the Health and Safety/Workplace Safety and Insurance Act Committee Conference (HS/WSIAC) hosted by Provincial OSSTF. Workshops will be presented by OSSTF, the Workers Health & Safety Centre (WHSC) and the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW). Workshops will include Ventilation, Workplace Health and Safety - Psychological Safety and Mental Health, Workplace Health and Safety - COVID-19, 21-Day Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) Recommendations and Working in a Multi-Union Environment/Coalition Building.

District 13 OSSTF remains steadfast in advocating for as many Infection Prevention and Control measures as possible that will ensure the health and safety of all workers in the

schools. One of the ways health and safety issues can be raised with the employer is through the Joint Health and Safety Committee. The Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) sets out duties of employers and requires them to identify hazards and implement controls to protect workers. The Act also gives Joint Health and Safety Committees rights, powers and functions including identifying situations that may be hazardous and making recommendations for the improvement of the health and safety of workers. Workers and management work together with a shared commitment to improving workplace health and safety for all. Locally, that committee is comprised of various worker groups - OSSTF, ETFO, CUPE, non-unionized workers - as well as representatives from the employer.

According to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, only two members of the Joint Health and Safety Committee must receive JHSC certification. In Durham, the school board sends all members of the JHSC for this two-part certification course. Therefore, the District 13 representatives on the JHSC

Health & Safety COVID Update (cont'd)

are able to successfully navigate the JHSC in order to advocate for its members. As well, Provincial OSSTF has targeted training around COVID-19 for its local leaders so that they can actively participate in their JHSC to help develop and implement an effective COVID-19 control plan that will protect workers.

The DDSB COVID-19 Guide For Schools was shared with District 13 prior to the start of the school year and examined in collaboration with the other union affiliates along with the

Ministry of Labour. The Ministry of Labour indicated no concerns with the plan. It is important that members understand that the protocols outlined throughout the document must be followed by all employees and it is our job as a local district to monitor the effectiveness of these policies and hold the employer accountable. To help members monitor COVID-19 issues in the workplace, OSSTF has created a Health and Safety Checklist for COVID-19 for Members. This can be

found on the Health and Safety Committee page on the D13 website:

(<http://www.d13.osstf.ca/committees/health-and-safety.aspx>). Members are encouraged to continue to bring issues of health and safety forward so we can in turn raise these issues at our Joint Health and Safety Committee meetings. You can call the District Office or inform your school health and safety representative or branch representative so that they can bring this forward on your behalf.

Protect yourself against insurance fraud

Provided by OTIP

Simply put, the impact of fraud on the car insurance industry is staggering. It's easy to dismiss insurance fraud as something that will never impact you, but in reality, it ends up costing insurers \$1.6 billion each year. These costs ultimately are paid for by the insurance company and the policyholders – many of which are completely innocent.¹ Can you believe that on average, \$236 of your annual car insurance premium goes towards paying for the illegal activities of fraudsters?¹ Being informed and learning how to recognize fraud is one way to help reduce these costs.

Learn more at <https://www.otipinsurance.com/article122>.

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COVID-Related Learning Loss

Chris Davis

*Communications Rep
Pickering HS*

We have been hearing the phrase “learning loss” since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Learning loss can be defined as a loss of knowledge or skills due to uncontrollable circumstances. Those circumstances are the necessary changes wrought on education due to the pandemic: COVID-19 safety measures, cohorting, pivoting to and from virtual learning, quadmestering, decrease in meaningful interaction, discussion, and connection with peers and teachers. Teachers dealt with all of those as well as reduced participation from our students, which slowed down delivery of content and progress of learning. All of these changes caused teachers to make various accommodations and modifications to courses, including but not limited to changes in delivery, condensing or cutting out content to fit the quadmester, deconstructing skills and guiding students longer and more closely than ever before, all to mitigate learning loss which still happened anyway. In fact, not only did teachers see learning loss, but we also saw a sense of helplessness develop among students as a result of COVID-19, an unfortunate symptom of the pandemic, further exacerbating the problem of learning loss, and

the circumstances that students and teachers continue to endure.

So what do we do? What is the saving grace of this new reality? Well, to be honest, with all of the challenges of attempting to teach to icons on a screen that may or may not respond for lengthy periods of time, by the last month or two of the previous academic year, forced virtual teaching was damaging the joy I had for teaching. I cannot overstate how much better it feels to return to the physical classroom this academic year and actually see and engage with my students half-face to half-face and interact with my colleagues in-person. The joy has returned, and I feel a renewed sense of purpose. Dealing with this new reality of learning loss and

learned helplessness means we have to adjust our expectations of students, be more patient, and focus more on course core skills acquisition. This means allocating more time for coaching these skills, and practice and assessment of those skills to promote mastery to be successful on evaluations and in future courses. This is easier said than done and should be done gradually to find your own balance. I experimented with the extra coaching, practice, and feedback myself during the brainstorming and outline steps of a Grade 11 University essay unit with significant improvement by a majority of my students. I will continue this now to help close gaps and to better prepare students against the challenges that they may or may not even be aware of.

Employee Records Delay

Nicole Bléau

District Representative

The Employee Records department at the DDSB is experiencing significant delays in processing documents and requests due to a spike in workload. This is the department responsible for issues relating to your experience credit, your pay, your seniority, your eligibility for benefits and many other things. If you are experiencing a delay and have concerns, they can be directed to employee.records@ddsb.ca.

Extra-Curriculars and Intramurals: Where Are We?

Steve Archer

Communications Rep
MCVI

In normal times, teachers are well practiced at navigating the many demands of being a coach. We know that a love of sport is not enough to field a team. We know that everything from booking buses to collecting forms and fees is going to require plenty of time and energy, before we even get to the field or court side to manage, coach and counsel our players. However, the challenges to getting our students active this year present an even more complex set of demands, which has led to a real change in the amount and types of activities and programs being offered.

The broad range of activities being offered and the enthusiasm by so many to offer programs is notable. This is despite late and early start times coupled with the demands of teaching two 2.5 hour classes each day. Parents in our community appreciate if we are committed to offering programs, while facing challenges at many levels. Any activity we offer is a significant victory in the lives of our students.

Teachers from three DDSB secondary schools from across the board – east, central and west areas, were asked what was happening at their school.

Considering that these teachers reflect the strong commitment to athletics that teachers demonstrate each year, some for many years, the limited number of teams now is striking. While we can rightfully point at the importance of managing COVID in the province, we must wonder at the impact on our students' and coaches' well-being when so many of them are left without the benefits of a meaningful sports experience. With a balanced understanding of the benefits and risks, maybe our policies and practices can evolve in time for our teams to suit up as soon as possible. If 25,000 fans can assemble to

cheer on the Canadian Men's National Soccer team at BMO Field and the Maple Leafs can add to their seating capacity indoors, it seems reasonable for us to find our path.

Here's an anecdotal look at our three sample schools. Please note this is only a snapshot, as things remain very fluid: East – Girls' and Boys' Rugby, Boys' Soccer and intramural Badminton and European Handball are in development. Central – Girls' Field Hockey, Boys' Golf, Cross Country and some potential for an Ultimate team in the works. West – Boys' Volleyball, Golf, and intramural soccer and cricket.

CAREpath

The Health Care Navigation System

CAREpath provides support for our teachers and their families when they are faced with a new diagnosis or a recurrent diagnosis of cancer. The support also includes a cancer survivor support program which can assess health risks in order to reduce the risk of recurrence. If you, your spouse or children need this support, call today! Contact the District Office for the LTD Policy #. If you want cancer treatment information for friends and extended family members, you can call the free Cancer Info Line at 1 800 290 5106.

OTBU News



Avril Burns

OTBU President

This year is off to a busy start with a significant shortage of occasional teachers available for day to day work. With well over 700 names on the Secondary Occasional Teacher List to cover the absences of only 1435 permanent teacher members, there should, theoretically, be more than enough staff to cover teacher absences. The Board is currently hiring even more teachers to the list to try to make up for the shortfall. Unfortunately this strategy usually results in a severe shortage of work for OTs in the winter months which often drives teachers to find jobs in other Boards or industries, which then results in a shortage of Occasional Teachers in the spring when work picks up again. Everyone who knows that they will not be available for day-to-day assignments is asked to enter their “unavailability” into SFE. It’s easy to do and you can do it for up to four weeks at a time – very convenient for Occasional Teachers who know they will be off for several days or weeks at a time. There is no consequence for being

unavailable but knowing how many teachers are genuinely available for assignments helps the Board plan PD and other events that take teachers out of their classrooms for the day. Occasional Teachers who have been with the Board for at least a year are reminded to request a Leave of Absence if they know that they will not be able to work the 5 day minimum this year. Everyone who has a full year LTO in the elementary panel should request a Leave of Absence for the secondary panel only for the entire year to avoid being removed from the Secondary list at the end of the year.

You may have noticed that the SmartFind Express site has a new look. The layout is different but all of the functionality is still there – log on to SFE and click on the white star at the top of the page to take a tour of the revamped site.

Proof of vaccination is a condition of employment for those who do not have an exemption. Everyone who wants to be available to teach will need to upload their vaccination receipt to ESS. If you are already double vaccinated, please download your vaccination receipt from covid19.ontariohealth.ca, then upload it to ESS. Check your

Board email from “Communications Department” on October 8th for complete instructions. If you do not intend to get vaccinated and do not have an exemption, please request a Leave of Absence (if you have been with the Board for at least one year) to avoid being removed from the OT list at the end of the year. Teachers who have an exemption are being issued Rapid Antigen test kits or will be given a voucher so that they can get their twice weekly tests at the pharmacy for free.

Please sign up for our Member Contact list by sending an email from your personal (not Board) email account to avril.burns@d13.osstf.ca with Subscribe in the subject line.

Go to the OTBU page of the District 13 website – www.d13.osstf.ca to see a list of our upcoming events and other helpful information.

Upcoming PD Workshops

January 2022
The Reality of Precarity

April 2022
Equity in Practice

June 2022
Science of Learning

PSSP News

Kristen Bennett

PSSP President

We have entered a 3rd year of pandemic support to students. Things are starting to return to a new normal. With this new normal comes added challenges for students, teachers and all staff. In order to help support the mental health needs of many of the students in secondary school, there are two new psychological services staff who have been hired to directly support mental health needs in some of the high schools across the district. If you have students struggling, speak to your head of special education and PSSP staff can help support.

Open House

PSSP is hoping to return to an in person Open House (fingers

crossed)! If we can't do it in person, we will go virtual. There will be food, prizes, information sharing and hopefully a chance to reconnect with fellow PSSP members. Representatives from Provincial Office will be there to speak and answer questions!! Keep an eye out for the date!

This is an ELECTION YEAR!

PSSP Members who are interested in joining the Executive or becoming a Job Classification Representative are encouraged to apply! Elections will occur at the AGM in the spring. All positions are for a two-year term and are open to all ACTIVE PSSP Members (including Contract).

The PSSP AGM is to be held on May 19, 2022.

The leadership positions are:

PSSP Executive

- President
- Vice-President
- Chief Negotiator/Grievance Officer
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Health and Safety Officer
- Educational Services Officer
- Pay Equity Officer

Job Classification Representatives

- Interpreter/Intervenor
- Social Worker/Child and Youth Worker
- Psychological Services Representative
- Speech and Language Pathologist

Student Achievement Awards 2022



The Student Achievement Awards is a writing and creative arts competition which is open to all public secondary school students in Ontario. The competition is meant to encourage the intellectual development of our students and an interest in society. We invite you to assist your students in entering the competition.

OSSTF/FEESO invites student writers and artists to submit creative work exploring this year's theme: **One Moment In Time**. Judging will be held at the school, District and Provincial levels. Eleven provincial winners will be awarded \$1000 each and will be invited to our Annual General Meeting in March 2022.

The deadline for receiving entries to the District 13 Office is November 19, 2021.

District 13 OSSTF Great Cycle Challenge Team Update

District 13 OSSTF participated in the Great Cycle Challenge throughout the month of August. The team was comprised of 35 participants who were either District 13 members or friends and family of D13 members. The Great Cycle Challenge is a fundraising event intended to raise money for and awareness of ending kids cancer.

The organization of our team in this event was a direct result of the efforts by our District 13 Public Relations Committee. The D13 PRC committee is always looking at ways that positively promote our members within the community.

We are proud to acknowledge all of the efforts of our team as they rode a total of 19,611.5 km and raised \$14,106.26 to help end kids cancer! Team members rode all around the Durham Region wearing our team jersey.



Kitchen Korner

Heather Tyrell

*Communications Rep,
J. Clarke Richardson*

Welcome to the Kitchen Korner, where I will give you some kitchen tips, tricks, and links to some of my favorite recipes. I am a professional chef by trade, and I have been teaching Culinary Arts since 2006! I am passionate about food and particularly baking. So, today I am going to give you a baking tip that is one of the most common errors while baking ... measuring flour. Most people

take their measuring cup and drag it through the flour container to gather up what they need for their recipe. However, doing so can result in you getting up to 25% more flour than you need!! The proper way to measure flour is to spoon the flour into your measuring cup and then level it off with a straight edge. This ensures that no packing down occurs. This is one way to ensure your baked items turn out correctly.

The cooler days are creeping in, so I want to share with you a link

to a comfort food that I turn to when it gets cool ... Chocolate Bourbon Pecan Monkey Bread

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/chocolate-bourbon-pecan-monkey-bread/>

Thanks, and see you next time....

Chef Heat

"Food is our common ground, a universal experience."

— James Beard

Upcoming Events for D13—2021-2022 (as currently scheduled)

November 11, 2021	Remembrance Day
November 12, 2021	Joint OSSTF/DDSB PD Day
November 24, 2021	OTPP Webinar
December 4, 2021	OMERS Webinar
December 9, 2021	OTBU Social @ D13 Office
January 12, 2022	OMERS Webinar
January 13, 2022	OTPP Webinar
February 21, 2022	Family Day Skate, details TBD
February 23, 2022	Pink Shirt Day
April 21, 2022	Parental Leave Workshop, details TBD
April 28, 2022	Day of Mourning
May 1, 2022	Steps for Life, OPG Pickering
May 5, 2022	Student Award Night, details TBD
May 12, 2022	District Annual Meeting 2022, details TBD
May 16, 2022	World Education Support Personnel Day
May 19, 2022	PSSP District Annual Meeting 2022, details TBD
May 26, 2022	OTBU Annual General Meeting 2022, details TBD
June 5, 2022	Durham Pride Parade, details TBD
June 10, 2022	District 13 Golf Tourney @ Lyndebrook Golf Course, details TBD
June 26, 2022	Toronto Pride Parade, details TBD

DISTRICT 13 OSSTF

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